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September 8, 2003

Honorable Tony Grippa, Chair Leon County Board of Commissioners 301 South Monroe Street Tallahassee, Florida 32301

Dear Mr. Chairman:

The Ounce Prevention Fund of Florida is a private, nonprofit corporation whose mission is to identify, fund, support and evaluate innovative prevention and early intervention programs that improve the health, education and life outcomes of Florida's at-risk children and families. We have identified such a program in northeast Leon County. The program which will be operated by the Boys and Girls of the Big Bend in Micosukkee, includes an initiative called Storyteller's Ink and utilizes creative writing and artistic expression that allows children to share their personal life stories with other children. The program also includes a powerful instructional software system that promotes the strengthening of basic academic skills. The Boys and Girls Club has instituted the program at other sites and reports significant strides in sustained academic growth.

Through a generous contribution from Mr. and Mrs. T. Wayne Davis, Mr. Jim Dahl and Mr. Art Cahoon, matched by the Board of Directors of the Ounce of Prevention Fund, we are prepared to provide these educational components to the Boys and Girls Club. In addition a portion of this award will be used for improving furnishings and equipment for the Micosukkee Club such as painting, new carpet throughout, new furniture, and new recreation equipment.

The total grant that will be awarded to the Boys and Girls Club is \$65,000. To meet this amount, we are asking the Leon County Commission for \$5,000 and would very much appreciate a favorable response to this request. We are confident these educational components will provide a necessary, important and effective resource to the children of Micosukkee.

Thank you for your consideration.

llook forward to hearing from you soon.

Douglas Sessions, Jr. President and CEO